

NOTEWORTHY PLANTS OF TEXAS. II. A
NEW SPECIES OF PELTANDRA

FRED A. BARKLEY

In a rather inaccessible portion of the sandy oaklands of Robertson County, eastern Texas, is a bog nearly a kilometer long which varies from a few meters to over a hundred in width. At its upper limit the bog has dried sufficiently so that a grass-sedge meadow separates it from the woodland. The peat of the bog varies from a few inches in depth at the upper end to nearly twelve feet near the lower end. This bog apparently overlays a previous peat deposit, since erosion of the stream a short distance below the bog shows over seven feet of old peat exposed under the sand. The dominant species of the bog is *Sarracenia Sledgei* Macf., which occurs in profusion in it in contrast to other bogs which the author has visited in Texas where this species is either absent or at least not abundant. Many of the plants abundant in other bogs in this area, *Utricularia*, *Iris*, *Xyris*, and *Eriocaulon*, are present here in great profusion; also growing here are *Sparganium*, *Aletris*, *Dulichium*, and *Hypoxis humilis*, none of which is frequent in this area.

In a swamp along the brook above the bog and again in more abundance along the streamlet running through the bog, especially near the lower end, a plant occurs which apparently is an undescribed species of *Peltandra*. A description of this plant follows.

Peltandra *Tharpii*¹ sp. nov.

Herbacea perennis acaulescens; cormis circa 4.5 cm. longis, 6 cm. latis; foliis erectis, numerosis, lanceolatis, sagittatis, acutis vel acuminatis, subintegris vel integris, lobis ad basin angustis, plus minusve acutis, subpeltatis, petiolis 35 ± cm. longis, ad basin vaginatis; scapis 20 ± cm. longis, recurvatis; spathis viridibus, 3.5–4 cm. longis, 1.5–2.5 cm. latis.

¹ Benjamin Carroll Tharp, born November 16, 1885, at Pankey, Grimes County, Texas, son of Angelina M. A. Jenkin and Edwin Harris Tharp, married Norris Wallis of Rockdale, Texas, September 16, 1914. Two sons: Benjamin Carroll, Jr., September 3, 1919, and George Edwin, December 9, 1921. A.B., University of Texas, 1914, A.M., 1915, Ph.D., 1925. Associate professor of biology at Sam Houston Teacher's College 1917–1919; at the University of Texas since 1919, instructor 1919–1920, adjunct professor 1920–1925, associate professor 1925–1933, professor since 1933, director of the herbarium since 1942.

For over twenty years he has directed the work in ecology and taxonomy at the University of Texas where he has been the inspiration and close friend of many students. As an ecologist he has worked on the vegetation of Texas especially in the range lands, served as scientific expert in the Oklahoma-Texas boundary suit, and made other important contributions. Probably his outstanding scientific contribution is in the field of plant taxonomy, where his work on the flora of Texas rightfully places him as dean of Texas plant collectors.

"University of Texas Herbarium Biographical Sketch II"—Fred A. Barkley

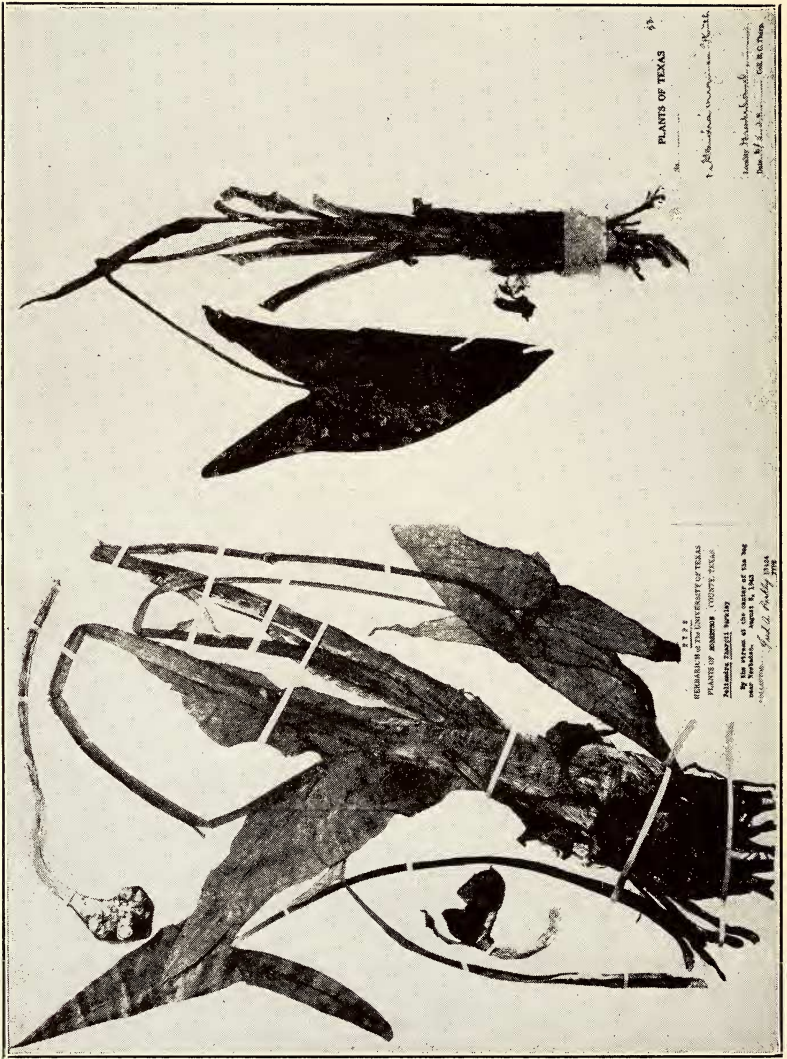


PLATE 21. PELTANDRA IN TEXAS. (Left) *Peltandra Tharpii*; (right) *Peltandra virginica*. Compare size and shape of spathe and leaf.

Acaulescent perennial with numerous, basal, erect, long-petioled, bright dark green leaves from a large corm, petiole sheathing below, slender above, $3.5 \pm$ dm. long, blades about 20 cm. long, lanceolate, sagittate, acute to acuminate, subentire, basal lobes narrow, subacute, slightly united, lateral nerves spreading, marginal nerves prominent; scapes about half as long as the petioles, recurving; spathe green, 3.5–4 cm. long, 1.5–2.5 cm. broad, completely enveloping the spadix which is adnate to it for nearly half its length, upper portion staminate, lower pistillate; fruits slightly angled, $.7 \pm$ cm. broad, $1 \pm$ cm. long.

Vegetatively this plant is very similar to *Peltandra virginica* (L.) Kunth, but differs in the larger narrower leaves, the shorter scape, and in the much shorter and broader spathe.

Specimens examined. TEXAS. Robertson County, in bog near New Baden: June 17, 1943, *Barkley 13043*; by stream at center of bog, August 8, 1943, *Barkley 13424* (type, cotypes widely distributed); marsh along stream one-quarter mile above bog, August 12, 1943, *Painter, Waldorf & Barkley 13425*; in water six inches deep in stream thru bog, October 30, 1943, *Tharp, Brady & Barkley 13698*. All of the above cited specimens are in the University of Texas Herbarium.

The Herbarium,
Department of Botany and Bacteriology,
University of Texas, Austin,
November 26, 1943.

A MONOGRAPH OF THE NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF FRITILLARIA

DOROTHY E. BEETLE

The genus *Fritillaria* belongs to the tribe *Tulipeae* of the Liliaceae. Its members, confined to the North Temperate Zone, are found in the Old World throughout Europe, in the northern part of Africa bordering the Mediterranean Sea, Northern Asia and as far south as Persia, Afghanistan, the Himalayas, China and Japan. In North America *Fritillaria* occurs along a narrow coastal strip from the Aleutian Islands to Northern Mexico, extending inland in the Northern United States to the western Dakotas and Nebraska.

Although the number of European and Asiatic specimens seen has not been large, it appears that in the Old World *Fritillaria* is comprised of two sections based on bulb characters and having a racemose inflorescence, and a third section with a single species, *F. Imperialis*, which has a pseudumbellate inflorescence. The majority of the Old World species of *Fritillaria* have a tunicate bulb, the rest having a large perennial squamose bulb without a tunic which is hardly distinguishable from that of *Lilium*. The bulb of the North American species, on the other hand, is a round flat disk without an outside tunic and is covered with moderate-